

COUNCIL
ACTIONS TO
DATE:

-

Our Business Continuity Plan has been updated to include the Coronavirus

-

Council run events have been cancelled or postponed. See our website Events page for the latest details

-

Critical supplies are secure for Forbes Shire

-

COUNCIL RESPONDS TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)
RISK TO OUR COMMUNITY

The World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) a global pandemic and it continues to create massive disruption across the world. As of today, the Forbes Shire has no reports of cases but we ask the community to stay vigilant in abiding by Department of Health guidelines of washing our hands, coughing into our elbow and self isolating if we feel unwell.

The Federal Government is actively increasing controls in response to new infections, include the banning of gatherings over 500 people outdoors, 100 people indoors and 14 day isolation of people returning from overseas.

The Federal Government has announced that new restrictions are in place to respond to the growing threat. These restrictions will take effect from 12am Thursday 26 March 2020. They include:

- Food courts/food vendors to only serve via takeaway.
- Auction houses, real estate auctions and open house inspections will no longer take place.
- Outdoor and indoor markets (excluding food markets) will be addressed by NSW Government.
- Beauty salons, Tanning, waxing, nail salons and massage parlours will close.
- Tattoo parlours will close.
- Play centres will close.
- Community and recreational centres, health clubs and fitness centres will close.
- Yoga, barre and spin classes will close.
- Boot camps and personal training will be limited to 10 people maximum, with social distancing.
- Weddings will be limited to no more than five people (including celebrant and witnesses).
- Funerals will be limited to no more than 10 people.
- Family gatherings such as barbecues, birthdays and house parties will not be allowed.
- Hairdressers/barbers will be allowed to remain open with four-square-metre distancing requirement and 30-minute appointments only.

- Cinemas, nightclubs, casinos, gambling venues, adult entertainment venues, concert venues, stadiums all closed.
- Galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, libraries, community centres all closed.
- Non-essential facilities, community facilities such as halls, PCYCs and places of worship closed.
- Schools, supermarkets, physios, pharmacies and shopping centres will remain open.

Forbes Shire Council has SMS messaging system to alert the community of emergencies such as floods, fire, road closures and health issues. This message comes in the form of a text message to your mobile and alerts only in the case of an emergency. This is an efficient way of communicating with our community. We do not use this service for any other messages, only emergencies.

To get this form of alert messaging we need you to sign up for the service. Email your name and contact mobile number to forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au and we will add you to the database. We will continue to keep the community up-to-date with the latest information.



CANCELLED OR POSTPONED UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the Public Events Order from the Public Health Department, event organisers are asked to reconsider their upcoming events, meetings and gatherings to reduce the occurrence of person to person transmission within the community.

The NSW Minister of Health announced the immediate cancellation of major events with more than 500 people in an outdoor setting and 100 people in an indoor setting. Council understands it is upsetting to cancel or postpone these events but feel if we can control the spread of this virus we can get back to life as normal sooner rather than later.

Our goal is to protect our community as much as we can. If you require any assistance with your events please don't hesitate to contact our Events Officer.

Listed below are events cancelled or postponed in the coming months.

MARCH

- 21-22 Forbes Ranch Sorting - Cancelled
- 22 Western NSW Advanced Girls Soccer - Cancelled
- 22 Harmony Day Foodies Market - Cancelled
- 28 Be Wildered in Wheogo Park - River Arts Festival - Cancelled

APRIL

- 1 All Ability Cooking Day - Cancelled
- 2 Easter Family Night - Cancelled
- 4 Youth Week Youth Concert - Postponed
- 5 Fish 4 Life - Postponed
- 10 Forbes Camel Races - Cancelled
- 11 Forbes Easter Festival - Cancelled
- 23 Newcastle Jets FC Regional Holiday Camp - Cancelled
- 25 Anzac Day March - Cancelled
- 29 Pop Up Preschool Nelsons Park - Cancelled

as an employer and as a public authority to help reduce the rate of transmission and we ask the community to help by remaining calm and abiding by the rules advised by our lead agencies.

The State and Federal government will be the lead-agencies, not Council, but Council will of course have a significant role to play ensuring the critical services we provide continue.

The community can be assured Forbes Shire Council is well prepared to provide continuous service and can safely do this with the security to our staff are also protected. Our Business Continuity Plan is a response plan for critical service delivery at the various levels of the infection, within the organisation and the community.

Council does not run the hospital or any medical service. If you are unwell, contact your doctor, the hospital or in an emergency 000. We urge the community if feeling unwell to remain at home and call ahead for medical advice.

The following link is the the Department of Health's HealthDirect Coronavirus Checker:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/healthdirect-coronavirus-covid-19-symptom-checker>

Jump online and do the survey to see if you need to seek medical advice.

The health and safety of our community is our top priority and we will keep you informed through our website, facebook and newsletters like this.

WEBSITES WITH UPDATES

www.health.gov.au

www.health.nsw.gov.au

www.healthdirect.gov.au

CONTACT COUNCIL

COUNCIL CUSTOMER SERVICE

For all inquiries: 02 6850 2300

STREET ADDRESS

2 Court Street, Forbes

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 333, Forbes, NSW 2871

EMAIL

forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.forbes.nsw.gov.au

FACEBOOK

@Forbes Shire Council

INSTAGRAM

@Forbes Shire Council



PREVENTION AND TREATMENT TIPS FOR COVID-19

Social Distance
1.5 metres

Wash Your Hands Often With Soap And Water

Avoid Close Contact With People Who Are Sick

Cover Your Cough Or Sneeze With A Tissue, Then Throw The Tissue In The Trash

Avoid Touching Your Eyes, Nose, And Mouth With Unwashed Hands

Stay Home When You Are Sick

Clean And Disinfect Frequently Touched Objects And Surfaces

COVID-19 CLINICS & OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Residents are asked to call ahead of presenting at any hospital or doctor's surgery. This is to ensure your symptoms are reflective of the Coronavirus and to not affect anyone else. Below are the hospitals in the Central West with Coronavirus COVID-19 testing facilities:

Bathurst Base Hospital Howick Street, Bathurst 9am-5:30pm, Monday-Friday. **Phone 02 6330 5311**

Dubbo Base Hospital Myall Street, Dubbo 8am-8pm, 7 days. **Phone 02 6809 6809**

Orange Hospital 1530 Forest Road, Orange 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday. **Phone 02 6369 3000**

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Health Direct Registered Nurse www.healthdirect.gov.au or **phone 1800 022 222**